

**I CLAIM:**

1. A delivery vehicle for a silver ion releasing compound for use in the treatment of menorrhagia and comprising a plurality of physiologically inert beads bearing a tissue necrosing amount of a water soluble silver ion releasing compound.
2. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are selected from the group consisting of polymeric beads, ceramic beads, and stainless steel beads.
3. The delivery vehicle of claim 2 wherein the polymeric beads are selected from the group consisting of polystyrene beads, polyethylene beads, polypropylene beads, nylon beads, polyurethane beads, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer beads, and polyethyleneterephthalate beads.
4. The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polypropylene beads are foamed polypropylene beads.
5. The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polypropylene beads are solid polypropylene beads.
6. The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polystyrene beads are perforated polystyrene beads.
7. The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polyethylene beads are foamed polyethylene beads.
8. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is deposited on the surface of the beads.
9. The delivery vehicle of claim 8 wherein at least a portion of the silver nitrate is contained within the beads.
10. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are substantially spherical and have an average diameter in the range of about 1 to about 6 millimeters.
11. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are substantially spherical and have an average diameter in the range of about 2 to about 4 millimeters.
12. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is a water soluble inorganic silver salt.

13. The delivery vehicle of claim 12 wherein the water soluble inorganic silver salt is silver nitrate.

14. The delivery vehicle of claim 12 wherein the water soluble inorganic silver salt is silver perchlorate.

5 15. The delivery vehicle of claim 12 wherein the water soluble inorganic silver salt is silver permanganate.

16. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is a water soluble organic silver salt.

10 17. The delivery vehicle of claim 16 wherein the water soluble organic silver salt is silver acetate.

18. The delivery vehicle of claim 16 wherein the water soluble organic silver salt is silver lactate monohydrate.

15 19. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is present as a composition that comprises at least about 75 percent by weight silver nitrate.

20 20. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is present as a composition that comprises at least about 95 percent by weight silver nitrate.

21 21. The delivery vehicle of claim 20 wherein the silver nitrate is present as a composition that comprises up to about 5 percent by weight potassium nitrate.

22. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads contain about 20 to about 150 milligrams of silver nitrate per bead.

25 23. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads contain about 50 to about 150 milligrams of silver nitrate per bead.

24. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is present in a physiologically tolerable binding matrix.

30 25. The delivery vehicle of claim 24 wherein binding matrix is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic polymeric binder, a gelatin binder, a polysaccharide binder, and a combination thereof.

26. The delivery vehicle of claim 25 wherein the binding matrix is a polysaccharide.

27. The delivery vehicle of claim 26 wherein the polysaccharide is a dextran.

28. The delivery vehicle of claim 25 wherein the binding matrix is a synthetic polymer.

5 29. The delivery vehicle of claim 28 wherein the synthetic polymer is polyvinylpyrrolidone.

30. The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the physiologically inert beads are porous.

10 31. A method of treating menorrhagia comprising the steps of administering to the uterine cavity of a patient suffering from menorrhagia a plurality of physiologically inert beads bearing a tissue necrosing amount of a solid silver ion source;

15 massaging the uterus to distribute the beads therein and maintaining the beads in contact with the endometrial lining of the uterus for a time sufficient to necrose the endometrial tissue;

flushing the uterine cavity with a saline solution to neutralize any silver ions present in the uterine cavity; and

recovering the beads from the patient's uterus.

20 32. The method in accordance with claim 31 wherein the silver ion source is a water soluble inorganic silver salt.

33. The method in accordance with claim 31 wherein the silver ion source is a water soluble organic silver salt.

34. The method in accordance with claim 31 wherein the silver ion source is silver nitrate.

25 35. The method in accordance with claim 31 wherein silver ions are administered in an amount in the range of about 25 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> to about 150 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> of endometrium.

30 36. The method in accordance with claim 31 wherein silver ions are administered in an amount in the range of about 50 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> to about 100 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> of endometrium.